

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1. (Withdrawn) An aqueous carbon-containing unshaped refractory, comprising a refractory material composed of 50 to 80 % by weight of refractory aggregate having a particle diameter of greater than 45  $\mu\text{m}$  and 20 to 50 % by weight of fine powder having a particle diameter of 45  $\mu\text{m}$  or less, wherein 15 to 60 % by weight of the fine powder is a carbon black material of pH 7 to 9.

Claim 2. (Withdrawn) The aqueous carbon-containing unshaped refractory according to claim 1, wherein the carbon black material contains 1.5 % by weight or less of a volatile component.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) An aqueous carbon-containing unshaped refractory, comprising:

3 to 15 % by weight based on the total weight of the refractory of a carbon black material having a specific surface area according to a nitrogen adsorption method of ~~10~~ 24 to 30  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ , and further comprising 0.02 to 0.03 % by weight of  $\beta$ -naphthalenesulfonic acid-formaldehyde condensate as the sodium salt per 1 % of the carbon black material.

Claim 4. (Canceled)

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The aqueous carbon-containing unshaped refractory according to claim 3, wherein ultrafine powder having a particle diameter of 10  $\mu\text{m}$  or less

occupies 2 to 15 % by weight of the remainder of the refractory except for the carbon black material and the  $\beta$ -naphthalenesulfonic acid-formaldehyde condensate as the sodium salt.

Claim 6. (Withdrawn) The aqueous carbon-containing unshaped refractory according to claim 1, wherein the refractory has an apparent porosity after drying of 13.0 % or less.

Claim 7. (Canceled)

Claim 8. (Withdrawn) The aqueous carbon-containing unshaped refractory according to claim 2, wherein the refractory has an apparent porosity after drying of 13.0 % or less.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) The aqueous carbon-containing unshaped refractory according to claim 3, wherein the refractory has an apparent porosity after drying of 13.0 % or less.

Claim 10. (Canceled)

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) The aqueous carbon-containing unshaped refractory according to claim 5, wherein the refractory has an apparent porosity after drying of 13.0 % or less.

Claim 12. (Canceled)